

Sept '88

Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat *Incorporated.*

EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

- Meeting Sept. 2nd. Mr.P.Prevett - Local Marsupials.
- Meeting Oct. 7th. Dr.F.Harrap - Birdwatching in S.Australia.
- Excursion Sept.4th. M.& B.Dowling - Pyrenees, Percydale area.
- Excursion Oct 9th. Dr.F.Harrap - Campbelltown.



President;	Dr.F.Harrap	Ph. 053 301651
Vice Pres.	Miss H.Burgess	312210
Secretary:	Mr.G.Binns	332282
Treasurer:	Mrs.F.Williamson	327631
Editor:	Mr.A.Barlow	413378

Meetings as specified are held at the School of Mines and Industries, Lydlard Street Sth., Art Building, commencing at 7.30 p.m.
EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS, cnr. STURT AND ARMSTRONG STS., BALLARAT, at 9.30 a.m. for FULL DAY OUTINGS OR AT 1.30 p.m. for HALF DAY*

FOR YOUR DIARY

Sept. 24th. - 25th. Native Garden Festival; Grampians Group of S.G.A.P., Public Hall, Pomonal. 10a.m. to 5p.m.

OCTOBER.

Tues. 4th. Committee meeting (if necessary) at Greg. Binns.

Fri. 21st. - Sun. 23rd. - W.V.F.N.C.A. Camp-out at Warby Ranges, N.E. Victoria.

26th. Forest St. Primary School Field Day at Mt. Cole. Group leaders required.

Committee Meeting Reports. July and August.

July;- Items discussed for action were;

1 Re. Dept. of C.F.L.- application for proposed fish traps on Bailey's Creek at Burrumbeet. Agreed to approve of proposal, conditional on suitable exit arrangements for platypus and water rats.

2 Mr. Bob Allen unable to attend August meeting as guest speaker. Messrs. H. Barclay and A. Perry have agreed to speak on Clunes district.

3 Arrangements for Camp-out, Aug. 26th.-28th.; Working parties and requirements listed for presentation to members at August meeting.

August 23rd.

1 C.C.V. affiliation - agreed to recommend to members that affiliation be renewed.

2 Victorian National Parks Association - agreed to respond to request for details of Club initiatives, projects and submissions.

3 Forest St. Primary School - Agreed to participate in Field Day, Oct. on Oct. 22nd.

4 Recent speedboat display on L. Weendouree - agreed to inquire into current regulations for power boats on lake.

5 Finalising of Camp-out arrangements.

INSECTS

Of all the animals that have ever existed insects are the most successful. From the Tropics, where they teem, to the edge of the Polar ice and all types of climatic region between; from the tops of snow covered mountains to caves deep underground, wherever life is minimally possible we find the insects established. Even though they cannot be said to have succeeded in colonising the oceans they are found in fresh water all over the world.

Not only do they exceed any other group of animal in the number of species but their individual numbers are multitudinous. The damage caused by swarms of locusts, which can strip hundreds of acres of all their greenery in a very short time, is a terrifying example of what huge, concentrated numbers of insects can do.

A single tree can be host to thousands of insects of many species. Some of them feed on the living tree, others on its dead parts and the fungi which may grow thereon. Many of them find their most satisfying meals to be other insects.

It has been postulated that insects will follow man as 'Overlords of the Earth' if/when he manages to destroy himself. Should this be after an atomic holocaust the cockroaches should do well as they have been found to have remarkable resistance to the effects of atomic radiation.

Last, but not least, it is widely recognised that man's greatest competitors for the World's food are - you've guessed it - INSECTS.



Common Ringtail Possum.

Pseudocheirus peregrinus.

The Ringtail Possum is grey to reddish brown with white underparts and a white tipped tail which curls into a ring. It is found in both forested and residential areas of Victoria. It is herbivorous and feeds mainly on leaves but says "Thankyou very much." to those who are kind enough to grow orchard fruits.

MEETING Aug 25 CLUNES with HARRY BARCLAY and
ALBERT PERRY.

The evening started with a bang! however it was only the globe in the projector.

Clunes is one of Victorias Gold Towns, in fact gold was first discovered in Clunes and very soon a township sprang up, and soon the building boom produced some magnificent buildings, churches, school, postoffice and others and many of these are still there today.

In the 1940's fire destroyed many of the old buildings, the descendants of Mr Weichhardt have kept many of the old photos, some going back to the early 1850's.

Harry Barclay has put many of these old photos on slides, these were the ones we saw.

The slides shown were the Port Philip Mine, this mine was on private property, Camerons Station, the area is now known as Homestead Flat.

There were many of the Town, houses, the creek in flood, and many others. One shows an old windmill, all history of this old mill is lost.

The Criterian mine and many of the shops, while Mt. Beckwith, without its pine tree, and the town also without its trees, later slides showed the trees in various stages of growth up to the present magnificent specimens.

The flooding was caused by pouring the sand back into the creek, with 80 head of stampers going Clunes was a rugged gold town.

The Port Philip mine employed 400 men 300 of them worked underground, the profit from twenty years work was £336,166, in todays figures it would be worth many millions.

These old photos are a priceless part of our heritage and we were privileged to see them, thanks to Harry Barclay and Albert Perry.

L.F.



Field Reports August Meeting.

- L. Fink. -Large flocks of Lorrikeets at Meredith.
- H. Hooper -During July, August many large slugs moving, in daylight, in open spaces in Brown Hill area.
- M. Dowling. -Silvereyes observed foraging in Grevillaea flowers.
- F. Harrap. -On Portland boat trip; Grey Headed Albatross observed.
- M. Christie. -Black Shouldered Kite observed.
- H. Burgess. -On Western Queensland trip; small groups of Bustards; Kangaroos not as plentiful as expected; many Brolgas.
- G. Binns. -At Wilcannia, in July, flocks of to 15 Black Faced Cuckoo Shrikes observed along Darling River (in Flood).

Urban Wildlife Watch

Please remember to return your completed and partially completed record sheets to the Heidelberg centre at the end of each month. More sheets are available at the Club meeting night.

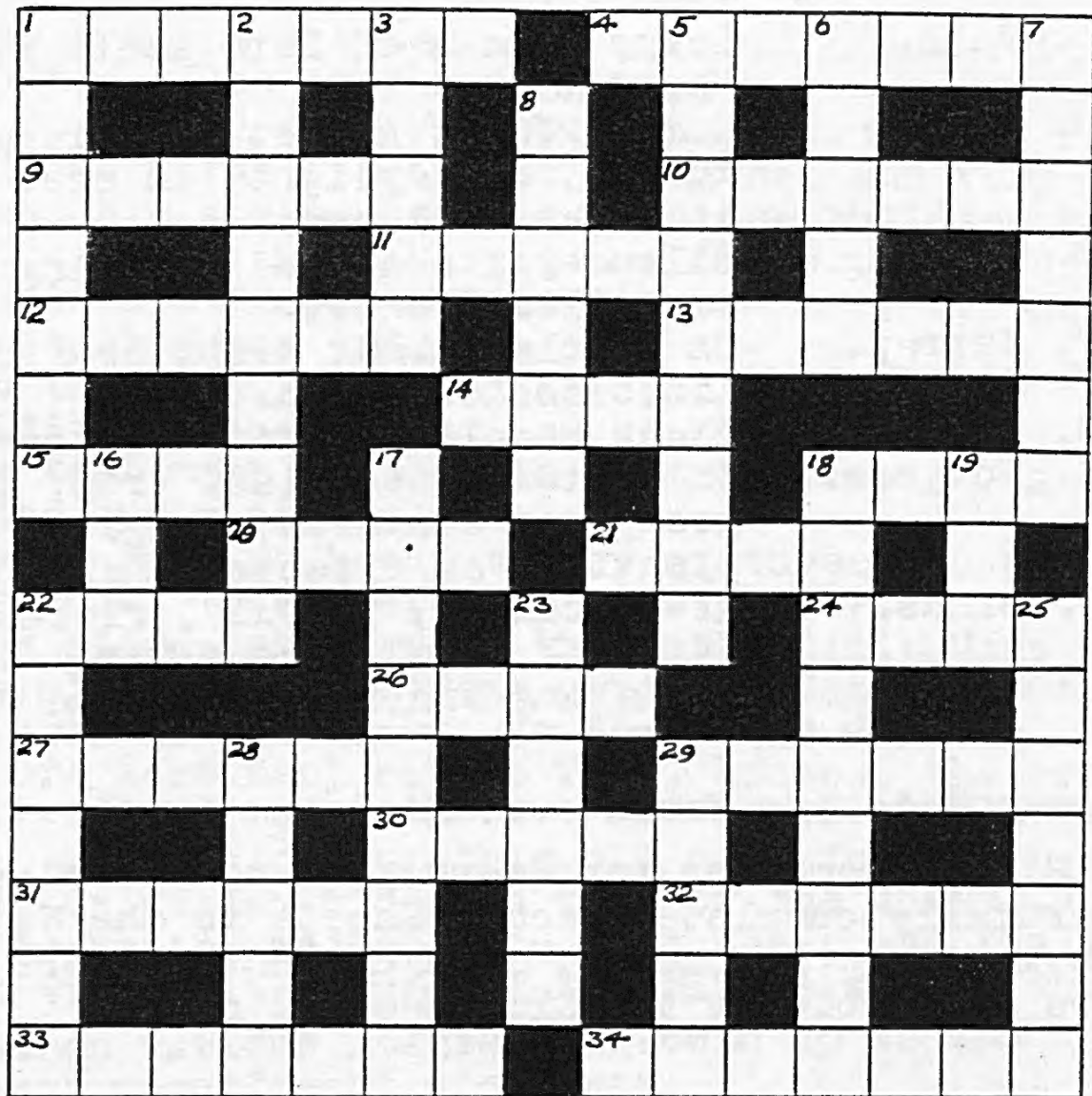


Common Brushtail Possum.
(*Trichosurus vulpecula*.)

This Possum, one of our most common, may be found in forest, rural and suburban areas. It shelters in tree hollows, but may use rabbit burrows and, as many of us have discovered, the roofs of houses.

Its colour varies from black to grey with a bushy black tail. Its food consists mainly of eucalypt leaves but it is not averse to grasses, insects and even your favourite garden plants!

NATURAL HISTORY CROSSWORD No. 9 by Tantulus



NATURAL HISTORY CROSSWORD No.9 by Tantalus
ACROSS

- 1 Low-down rheumatism! (7) 4 Arctic duck (6) 9 Large Aust. bird (6) 10 Sucker-fish (6) 11 Water bird (5) 12 Mallee-fowl (Pl.) (6) 13 Member of Guinea-pig family (6) 14 Frozen rain (4) 15 Bird (4) 18 Phalacrocorax Fuscescens (4) 20 Kernels (4) Tiny member, Order Diptera (4) 22 Foggy smoke (4) 24 Mountains (4) 26 Louse eggs (4) 27 Am. Indian tribe (6) 29 Black, Brown, Grey or Little (6) 30 Hair-like organs of locomotion of lower animals (5) 31 Salad veg. (6) 32 Falkland Is. Penguin (6) 33 Burrowing marsupials (7) 34 An aberdevine (1,6)

DOWN

- 1 Colourful herbaceous plant (7) 2 Aus. Ox-bow (9) 3 8 down does (4) 6 Gippsland River (5) 7 Having fixed gaze (7) 8 E.g. rat or beaver (6) 16 Male sheep (3) 17 Pratincola rubicola-Eur. bird (9) 18 Gregarious bird. Introduced pest (9) 19 Snake (3) 25 May be tree or house (7) 28 Wisteria does (5) 29 Shrub (5)

Solution Crossword No 8

1	T	R	U	M	P	E	T		4	B	E	E	T	L	E	S
	E			A		L		3	F		I		I			P
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15	L	E	A	F			17	C		T		O		18	A	N
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21	W	A	R	T			A		22	C	I	N		23	A	P
	O						25	M	O	L	E			C		T
26	R	A	M	B	L	E		O		28	P	L	O	V	E	R
	K			R			29	L	I	V	E	R		N		I
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	R			A				R		O		A				E
32	S	T	O	R	I	N	G		33	A	N	I	S	E	E	D

Anchor Plant Project Report.

A meeting of the steering committee was held on August 17 to confirm:

1. Policy for clearing the fenced areas and/or control of noxious weeds.
2. Policy for planting out of plant stock, which is progressin well.
3. Selection of further suitable sites for plant plantings.

Koalas Branch Out.

Koalas, according to zoologists from Monash University, do not have a balanced diet of gum leaves. The scientists studied the eating habits of six adult female koalas on an island in Western-port Bay and found that while manna gum was often the only thing on the menu the koalas did hoe into coastal tea-tree and swamp paperbark.

This is the family to which mint and the mint bushes belong. The former name, Labiatae, is derived from the character of the corolla, in which one or more petals form a distinct lip (labium). The alternative name is derived from the Mediterranean genus, *Lamium*.

Included in this family are many aromatic culinary herbs, e.g. *Origanum*, *Mentha* (who's fro chewing gum ?), *Thymus*, *Rosmarinus*, *Lavandula*, *Salvia*. Two well-known native genera widely cultivated are *Westringia* and *Prostanthera* (mint-bushes)

The family is found throughout the world and is very well represented in the Mediterranean region. There are about 38 genera native to Australia. J. Willis refers to plants in 18 of these genera (many have been introduced. Around Ballarat plants belonging to 10 - 11 genera are found.

The majority of the mints are shrubs or herbs.

The flowers are usually zygomorphic (irregular) and are arranged in axillary cymose clusters.

Calyx : 5 sepals, united.

Corolla : 4 - 5 petals, united - tubular, but usually deeply lobed, often 2 lipped.

Stamens : 4 or 2 arising from corolla (epipetalous)

Gynoecium : 2 carpels, ovary superior. Stigma usually bifid (forked).

